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2/12/90

WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

DECEMBER 1989

DILHR
DEPARTMENT OF
INDUSTRY, LABOR & HUMAN RELATIONS

WISCONSIN DATA AND SOURCES

	INDICATOR	SOURCES
L1	Composite Index of Leading Indicators	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L2	Average Work Week, Manufacturing	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L3	Average Overtime Hours, Mfg.	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L4	Average Weekly Initial Claims	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L5	Total Job Openings Received	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
L6	New Business Incorporations	Wisconsin Secretary of State
L7	Net Gain in Business Phone Access Lines	Wi. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
L8	Building Plans Examined	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C1	Help-Wanted Advertising Index (Milw.)	National Industrial Conference Board
C2	Total Unemployment Rate	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C3	Natural Gas Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C4	New Car Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Transportation
C5	Electric Power Sales	Wisconsin Public Service Commission
C6	Total Security Registrations	Wisconsin Commissioner of Securities
C7	Manufacturing Employment	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C8	Average Weekly Earnings, Mfg.	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
C9	Cash Receipts From Farm Marketing	U.S. Department of Agriculture
C10	Contract Construction Employment	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
x1	Birth Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x2	Death Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x3	Natural Net Gain in Population	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x4	Marriage Registrations	Wi. Dept. of Health and Social Services
x5	Consumer Price Index (Milwaukee)	U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
x6	Index of Prices Received By Farmers	Wisconsin Department of Agriculture
x7	Net Gain in Residential Phone Access Lines	Wi. Telephone Co. and General Telephone Co.
x8	Labor Disputes, No. of Workers	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations
x9	Unemployment Compensation Exhaustees	Wi. Dept. of Industry, Labor and Human Relations

NOTES: Selected series are seasonally adjusted by the Bureau of the Census X-11 Variant of the census Method 11 Seasonal Adjustment Program.

SECTION A is a summary of recent data and current changes for all indicators and is presented in chart form. The indicators are presented with cyclical timing as the principle basis of classification.

SECTION B is a summary of Wisconsin Labor Force Estimates, including Employment, Unemployment and Unemployment Rates, and selected U.S. data.

SECTION C analyzes the Wisconsin labor force by industry and by specified Metropolitan Statistical Areas.

SECTION D singles out certain economic time series as being leading of coinciding in relation to movements in aggregate economic activity. They are seasonally adjusted and presented graphically.

COVER PHOTO: Courtesy of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin

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WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

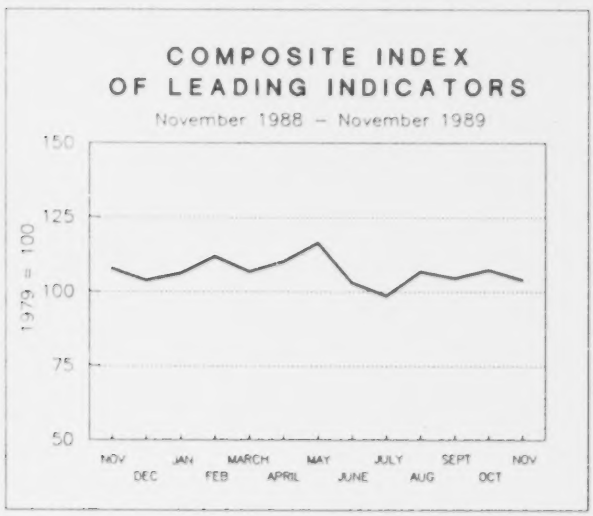
SUMMARY FOR NOVEMBER

COMPOSITE INDEX

The Composite Index of Wisconsin's leading economic indicators dropped by 3.4 percentage points in November. That should not yet cause concern. Three consecutive months of either increase or decrease are needed to signal an economic trend.

The index has not shown consistent movement in 1989. So far, it has increased six months and decreased five, with no more than two consecutive months of increases or decreases.

Lowering the index this month were a decrease of overtime hours in manufacturing, a decrease in job openings received by Job Service offices, and a decrease in new business telephone access lines.



LEADING INDICATORS

Wisconsin manufacturers decreased the average workweek of production workers by four-tenths of an hour in November. That is counter to the normal trend. Manufacturers usually trim back the number of employees, but work more hours. This month, manufacturing employment did decrease, but by less than the normal seasonal amount.

Along with the workweek, the average weekly overtime hours for production workers decreased. A slight increase is normal in November.

Initial claims for unemployment compensation increased this month. November's 9,500 average weekly initial claims count is the highest level this year. While the claims average grew by over 3,700, a normal seasonal increase would have added about 175 to that amount. That is, when adjusting for seasonal factors, the initial claims trend is down.

The number of job openings received by public Job Service offices in November amounted to 5,409. That is down from calls for over eight thousand workers in the previous month, and down from a normal seasonal level of 6,300 openings.

The number of new business incorporations in Wisconsin decreased by 64 in November. That is not a large number ... the new corporations count fluctuates widely from month to month. About two-thirds of the decrease is due to seasonal factors.

The net gain in business telephone access lines declined in November. Some decrease is normal this month, but the one-thousand-plus decrease far exceeds the seasonally normal trend.

The number of commercial and industrial building plans examined decreased by 154. That is not severe, since a normal seasonal decrease would amount to over 190 fewer examinations.

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Unit	Monthly Series			% Change		Avg.
		Latest Month		Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	1988
LEADING INDICATORS								
L1 COMPOSITE INDEX OF LEADING INDICATORS								
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	NOV	103.9	107.3	107.5	-3.2%	-3.3%	97.9
L2 AVG. WORK WEEK, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Hours	NOV	41.1	41.5	42.2	-1.0%	-2.6%	41.7
Seasonally Adjusted			40.5	41.5	41.6	-2.4%	-2.6%	
L3 AVG. OVERTIME HOURS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Hours	NOV	3.7	4.0	4.4	-7.5%	-15.9%	4.1
Seasonally Adjusted			3.5	3.9	4.1	-10.3%	-14.6%	
L4 AVG. WEEKLY INITIAL CLAIMS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	9500	5774	9287	64.5%	2.3%	6833
Seasonally Adjusted			6929	7059	6775	-1.8%	2.3%	
L5 TOTAL JOB OPENINGS RECEIVED								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	5409	8059	7588	-32.9%	-28.7%	8063
Seasonally Adjusted			5950	6935	8345	-14.2%	-28.7%	
L6 NEW BUSINESS INCORPORATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	507	571	532	-11.2%	-4.7%	595
Seasonally Adjusted			583	607	611	-4.0%	-4.6%	
L7 NET GAIN IN BUSINESS TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	1938	3102	1139	-37.5%	70.1%	2471
Seasonally Adjusted			2583	2716	2216	-4.9%	16.6%	
L8 BUILDING PLANS EXAMINED								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	677	831	674	-18.5%	0.4%	613
Seasonally Adjusted			649	612	646	6.0%	0.5%	
COINCIDING INDICATORS								
C1 HELP-WANTED INDEX (MILW.)								
Seasonally Adjusted	Index	NOV	97	95	101	2.1%	-4.0%	97
C2 UNEMPLOYMENT RATE, TOTAL								
Unadjusted	Percent	NOV	4.1	4.0	3.6	.....	.....	4.3
Seasonally Adjusted			4.2	4.3	3.7	.....	.....	
C3 NATURAL GAS SALES								
Unadjusted	Mil.	OCT	140.7	74.3	182.6	89.4%	-22.9%	190.9
Seasonally Adjusted	Therms		179.2	164.0	232.5	9.3%	-22.9%	
C4 NEW CAR REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	10,242	16,289	11,099	-37.1%	-7.7%	14734
Seasonally Adjusted			12,569	14,000	13,624	-10.2%	-7.7%	
C5 ELECTRIC POWER SALES								
Unadjusted	Mil. KWH	OCT	3437.1	3325.2	2459.3	3.4%	39.8%	2397.3
Seasonally Adjusted			3379.6	3341.9	2418.5	1.1%	39.7%	
C6 TOTAL SECURITIES REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Mil. $	OCT	205.2	170.4	71.7	20.4%	186.2%	156.1
Seasonally Adjusted			209.2	187.7	73.1	11.5%	186.2%	

Section

A WISCONSIN ECONOMIC INDICATORS

	Unit	Monthly Series				% Change		Avg.
		Latest Month		Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	1988
C7 MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT								
Unadjusted	Thous.	NOV	555.1	556.9	557.5	-0.3%	-0.4%	550.7
Seasonally Adjusted			555.7	554.1	558.2	0.3%	-0.4%	
C8 AVG. WEEKLY EARNINGS, MFG.								
Unadjusted	Dollars	NOV	$448.40	$449.45	$452.38	-0.2%	-0.9%	$443.48
Seasonally Adjusted			$438.75	$449.90	$442.85	-2.5%	-0.9%	
C9 CASH RECEIPTS FROM FARM MKTG.								
Unadjusted	Mil. $	SEPT	469.8	459.1	457.4	2.3%	2.7%	408.6
Seasonally Adjusted			448.7	454.6	436.8	-1.3%	2.7%	
C10 CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION EMPL.								
Unadjusted	Thous.	NOV	81.2	82.9	76.8	-2.1%	5.7%	71.5
Seasonally Adjusted			76.6	75.0	72.5	2.1%	5.7%	
OTHER KEY INDICATORS								
X1 BIRTH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	5386	6663	5453	-19.2%	-1.2%	5905
Seasonally Adjusted			5965	6425	6040	-7.2%	-1.2%	
X2 DEATH REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	3265	3772	3453	-13.4%	-5.4%	3632
Seasonally Adjusted			3373	3776	3568	-10.7%	-5.5%	
X3 NATURAL NET GAIN POPULATION								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	2121	2891	2000	-26.6%	6.1%	2274
Seasonally Adjusted			2568	2667	2421	-3.7%	6.1%	
X4 MARRIAGE REGISTRATIONS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	2608	4876	2822	-46.5%	-7.6%	3468
Seasonally Adjusted			3142	3453	3398	-9.0%	-7.5%	
X5 CONSUMER PRICE INDEX			(Jun '89)	(Dec '88)	(Jun '88)			
Unadjusted (1982-1984 = 100)	Index	JUNE	120.3	117.2	114.5	2.6%	5.1%	115.9
X6 PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS								
Unadjusted	Index	NOV	160	158	145	1.3%	10.3%	135
Seasonally Adjusted			159	154	144	3.2%	10.4%	
X7 NET GAIN IN RESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE ACCESS LINES								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	3541	836	4090	323.6%	-13.4%	2208
Seasonally Adjusted			2186	1692	2597	29.2%	-15.8%	
X8 LABOR DISPUTES, NO. OF WORKERS								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	1211	1211	138	0.0%	777.5%	107
Seasonally Adjusted			4984	1175	567	324.2%	779.0%	
X9 UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION EXHAUSTEES								
Unadjusted	Number	NOV	9,154	9,748	10,291	-6.1%	-11.0%	14102
Seasonally Adjusted			10,048	10,437	11,300	-3.7%	-11.1%	

Section

B

LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES

WISCONSIN LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Unadjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2630.0	2647.3	2605.1	-0.7%	1.0%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	2523.2	2540.9	2511.4	-0.7%	0.5%
Unemployment	106.8	106.5	93.6	0.3%	14.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.1	4.0	3.6	.....	.....
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	2631.2	2638.2	2605.2	-0.3%	1.0%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	2520.7	2525.7	2508.3	-0.2%	0.5%
Unemployment	110.6	112.5	96.9	-1.7%	14.1%
Unemployment Rate	4.2	4.3	3.7	.....	.....

WISCONSIN EMPLOYMENT ESTIMATES NOVEMBER Unadjusted	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
TOTAL NONFARM WAGE AND SALARY WORKERS	2232.0	2233.4	2193.6	-0.1%	1.8%
Contract Construction	81.2	82.9	76.8	-2.1%	5.7%
Manufacturing	553.9	555.7	557.4	-0.3%	-0.6%
Transportation, Communication and Public Utilities	102.2	103.3	100.3	-1.1%	1.9%
Electric, Gas and Sanitary Services	17.4	17.4	17.3	0.0%	0.6%
Wholesale Trade	112.6	113.2	109.6	-0.5%	2.7%
Retail Trade	420.1	417.5	407.5	0.6%	3.1%
General Merchandise	51.9	49.7	50.4	4.4%	3.0%
Food Stores	60.7	60.8	58.7	-0.2%	3.4%
Auto Dealers & Gas Stations	44.1	44.1	42.8	0.0%	3.0%
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	120.4	119.9	116.1	0.4%	3.7%
Banking	28.2	28.1	27.5	0.4%	2.5%
Insurance	43.0	42.6	41.1	0.9%	4.6%
Service and Miscellaneous	496.9	498.3	485.2	-0.3%	2.4%
Business Services	84.0	83.0	84.8	1.2%	-2.1%
Health Services	178.0	177.5	170.5	0.3%	4.1%
Hospitals	74.7	74.5	72.5	0.3%	3.0%
Private Education	27.2	26.7	26.1	1.9%	4.2%
Social Services	35.5	35.7	36.7	-0.6%	-3.3%
Government	342.0	339.8	338.4	0.6%	1.1%
State Government	89.6	89.4	86.7	0.2%	3.3%
Local Government	223.6	221.5	222.2	0.9%	0.6%

UNITED STATES LABOR FORCE ESTIMATES DECEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
Seasonally Adjusted					
CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE	124,546	124,488	122,650	0.0%	1.5%
Employment (incl. Labor Disputes)	117,888	117,836	116,141	0.0%	1.5%
Unemployment	6,658	6,652	6,509	0.1%	2.3%
Unemployment Rate	5.3%	5.3%	5.3%	.....	.....

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT Unadjusted NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	553.9	555.7	557.4	-0.3%	-0.6%
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	545.0	543.9	548.0	0.2%	-0.5%
Durable Goods	336.5	336.7	344.5	-0.1%	-2.3%
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	28.2	28.5	28.8	-1.1%	-2.1%
Millwork, Plywood & Related	14.3	14.5	14.6	-1.4%	-2.1%
Furniture and Fixtures	12.1	11.8	12.1	2.5%	0.0%
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	9.5	9.4	9.6	1.1%	-1.0%
Primary Metal Industries	22.4	22.5	22.8	-0.4%	-1.8%
Iron and Steel Foundries	11.5	11.6	11.5	-0.9%	0.0%
Fabricated Metal Products	60.4	60.3	58.5	0.2%	3.2%
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	14.4	14.5	14.4	-0.7%	0.0%
Metal Stampings	11.9	11.8	11.2	0.8%	6.3%
Machinery (Excl. Electrical)	108.4	108.5	109.2	-0.1%	-0.7%
Engines and Turbines	17.5	17.4	20.0	0.6%	-12.5%
Farm Machinery and Equipment	13.2	13.2	12.9	0.0%	2.3%
Constr.,Mining, Material Handling Machinery	11.8	11.7	11.5	0.9%	2.6%
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	14.7	14.7	13.5	0.0%	8.9%
Special Ind. Mach., Excl. Metalworking	14.6	14.5	14.1	0.7%	3.5%
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	15.0	15.2	14.6	-1.3%	2.7%
Electrical Machinery, Equip. and Supplies	47.3	47.2	48.1	0.2%	-1.7%
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	15.6	15.6	15.8	0.0%	-1.3%
Transportation Equipment	25.1	25.5	32.1	-1.6%	-21.8%
Motor Vehicles and Equipment	18.1	18.3	25.6	-1.1%	-29.3%
Instrument and Related Products	13.0	13.0	12.9	0.0%	0.8%
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	10.1	10.0	10.4	1.0%	-2.9%
Nondurable Goods	217.4	219.0	212.9	-0.7%	2.1%
Food and Kindred Products	62.0	64.5	61.5	-3.9%	0.8%
Meat Products	14.8	14.8	14.4	0.0%	2.8%
Dairy Products	17.9	17.8	17.9	0.6%	0.0%
Canning and Preserving	8.8	11.8	9.4	-25.4%	-6.4%
Textile Mill Products	4.0	4.2	4.7	-4.8%	-14.9%
Apparel and Other Finished Products	7.0	7.1	7.5	-1.4%	-6.7%
Paper and Allied Products	50.5	50.4	49.8	0.2%	1.4%
Pulp and Paper Mills	30.1	30.2	30.1	-0.3%	0.0%
Misc. Converted Paper	11.4	11.4	11.1	0.0%	2.7%
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	46.9	46.7	44.6	0.4%	5.2%
Newspapers	13.6	13.5	12.8	0.7%	6.2%
Commercial Printing	21.3	21.3	20.4	0.0%	4.4%
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.5	10.5	10.5	0.0%	0.0%
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	30.1	29.4	27.6	2.4%	9.1%
Miscellaneous Plastics Products	25.4	24.7	23.1	2.8%	10.0%
Leather & Leather Products	6.2	6.0	6.4	3.3%	-3.1%

Section C

WISCONSIN EARNINGS AND HOURS DATA

EARNINGS AND HOURS Unadjusted OCTOBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours		
	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$448.40	$449.45	$452.38	41.1	41.5	42.2
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	450.05	453.44	455.15	41.1	41.6	42.3
Durable Goods	447.31	451.94	459.43	41.0	41.5	42.5
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	316.13	324.79	315.62	38.6	39.9	39.7
Furniture and Fixtures	361.15	367.98	365.80	40.9	42.2	43.6
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	445.78	492.06	451.70	44.4	48.1	47.2
Primary Metal Industries	440.02	450.50	479.12	41.2	42.3	45.5
Iron and Steel Foundries	451.26	463.32	501.60	43.1	44.0	48.0
Fabricated Metal Products	408.35	415.09	429.17	39.8	40.3	42.2
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	445.62	432.43	443.89	42.4	41.7	44.3
Metal Stampings	456.78	460.37	489.49	41.3	41.7	42.9
Machinery (Excl. Electrical)	519.72	516.24	497.88	42.6	42.7	42.7
Engines and Turbines	541.08	528.28	501.65	40.5	39.9	39.1
Farm Machinery and Equipment	513.54	527.92	516.53	40.5	42.2	42.2
Constr.,Mining, Material Handling Machinery	570.34	562.05	513.04	45.7	45.4	44.0
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	561.93	544.84	561.95	42.7	42.8	45.1
Special Ind. Mach., Excl. Metalworking	532.61	556.47	523.88	44.2	45.8	44.7
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	458.39	452.38	470.88	41.9	41.2	43.2
Electrical Machinery, Equip. and Supplies	414.32	421.48	425.76	40.9	41.2	41.7
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	426.62	433.84	429.45	40.4	41.2	40.9
Transportation Equipment	606.11	612.89	656.41	41.6	41.3	43.1
Instrument and Related Products	346.08	344.45	391.28	36.7	36.8	42.3
Nondurable Goods	449.49	446.54	440.13	41.2	41.5	41.6
Food and Kindred Products	427.44	412.27	411.67	41.1	40.9	40.8
Meat Products	394.58	393.01	379.66	40.1	41.5	41.0
Dairy Products	427.80	420.40	404.78	41.9	41.5	40.6
Textile Mill Products	331.55	323.38	313.33	41.6	41.3	41.5
Apparel and Other Finished Products	265.11	261.18	266.37	38.2	37.1	39.0
Paper and Allied Products	611.10	612.84	600.44	45.2	45.7	45.8
Pulp and Paper Mills	672.14	668.16	644.92	46.1	46.4	46.0
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	447.60	441.34	424.75	40.0	39.3	38.3
Chemicals and Allied Products	401.70	420.16	411.86	39.0	40.4	39.3
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	346.37	357.06	353.64	38.7	40.9	42.0
Leather & Leather Products	236.43	252.45	239.28	35.5	37.4	36.2

AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS Unadjusted NOVEMBER	Including Overtime			Excluding Overtime		
	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Latest Mo.	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
All Manufacturing (Incl. Canning)	$10.91	$10.83	$10.72	$10.44	$10.34	$10.19
All Manufacturing (Excl. Canning)	10.95	10.90	10.76	10.49	10.42	10.23
Durable Goods	10.91	10.89	10.81	10.50	10.45	10.29
Lumber and Wood Products (Excl. Furniture)	8.19	8.14	7.95	7.96	7.84	7.70
Furniture and Fixtures	8.83	8.72	8.39	8.66	8.51	8.06
Stone, Clay, and Glass Products	10.04	10.23	9.57	9.35	9.37	8.88
Primary Metal Industries	10.68	10.65	10.53	10.22	10.11	9.77
Iron and Steel Foundries	10.47	10.53	10.45	9.95	9.89	9.56
Fabricated Metal Products	10.26	10.30	10.17	9.90	9.88	9.69
Fabricated Structural Metal Products	10.51	10.37	10.02	10.16	9.90	9.46
Metal Stampings	11.06	11.04	11.41	10.55	10.58	10.76
Machinery (Excl. Electrical)	12.20	12.09	11.66	11.72	11.61	11.12
Engines and Turbines	13.36	13.24	12.83	13.02	13.00	12.46
Farm Machinery and Equipment	12.68	12.51	12.24	12.33	12.08	11.77
Constr.,Mining, Material Handling Machinery	12.48	12.38	11.66	11.84	11.84	11.18
Metalworking Machinery and Equipment	13.16	12.73	12.46	12.55	12.14	11.67
Special Ind. Mach., Excl. Metalworking	12.05	12.15	11.72	11.46	11.39	11.08
Gen. Industrial Mach. and Equip.	10.94	10.98	10.90	10.50	10.56	10.33
Electrical Machinery, Equip. and Supplies	10.13	10.23	10.21	9.81	9.83	9.75
Electrical Industrial Apparatus	10.56	10.53	10.50	10.32	10.21	10.15
Transportation Equipment	14.57	14.84	15.23	14.03	14.29	14.37
Instrument and Related Products	9.43	9.36	9.25	9.34	9.27	8.95
Nondurable Goods	10.91	10.76	10.58	10.36	10.17	10.04
Food and Kindred Products	10.40	10.08	10.09	9.83	9.46	9.51
Meat Products	9.84	9.47	9.26	9.33	8.94	8.62
Dairy Products	10.21	10.13	9.97	9.66	9.58	9.44
Textile Mill Products	7.97	7.83	7.55	7.66	7.49	7.17
Apparel and Other Finished Products	6.94	7.04	6.83	6.75	6.90	6.62
Paper and Allied Products	13.52	13.41	13.11	12.71	12.59	12.36
Pulp and Paper Mills	14.58	14.40	14.02	13.65	13.53	13.20
Printing, Publishing and Allied Products	11.19	11.23	11.09	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Chemicals and Allied Products	10.30	10.40	10.48	10.05	10.01	10.08
Rubber and Misc. Plastics Products	8.95	8.73	8.42	8.60	8.32	8.08
Leather & Leather Products	6.66	6.75	6.61	6.53	6.57	6.48

Section C

SUMMARY OF AREA DATA

MANUFACTURING EMPLOYMENT Unadjusted NOVEMBER	(In Thousands)			% Change	
	Latest Month	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago	Mo. Ago	Yr. Ago
United States	19607.0	19651.0	19654.0	-0.2%	-0.2%
Wisconsin	553.9	555.7	557.4	-0.3%	-0.6%
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	51.5	52.7	53.0	-2.3%	-2.8%
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	12.0	11.9	11.7	0.8%	2.6%
Green Bay (Brown County)	26.4	26.4	25.0	0.0%	5.6%
Janesville-Beloit (Rock Co.)	17.3	17.4	18.8	-0.6%	-8.0%
Kenosha (County)	9.4	9.7	13.9	-3.1%	-32.4%
La Crosse (County)	11.0	11.0	11.2	0.0%	-1.8%
Madison (Dane County)	25.0	24.8	24.8	0.8%	0.8%
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Washington-Waukesha)	177.6	176.2	176.4	0.8%	0.7%
Racine (County)	26.3	26.2	26.2	0.4%	0.4%
Sheboygan (County)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.		
Wausau (Marathon County)	13.9	14.3	13.8	-2.8%	0.7%

EARNINGS AND HOURS, MFG. Production Workers (Unadjusted) NOVEMBER	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings			
							Incl. Overtime		Excl. Overtime	
	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Year Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago	Latest Month	Month Ago
United States	$433.78	$430.27	$427.87	41.0	40.9	41.5	$10.58	$10.52	.....	.....
Wisconsin	448.40	449.45	452.38	41.1	41.5	42.2	10.91	10.83	$10.44	10.34
Appleton-Oshkosh (Calumet-Winnebago-Outagamie)	518.73	514.61	498.18	43.3	43.5	43.7	11.98	11.83	11.41	11.23
Eau Claire (Eau Claire-Chippewa)	441.31	475.46	432.64	40.9	43.7	40.7	10.79	10.88	10.47	10.41
Green Bay (Brown County)	488.44	488.04	495.07	40.4	42.0	43.2	12.09	11.62	11.37	11.00
Janesville-Beloit (Rock Co.)	589.31	583.34	586.35	43.3	43.5	45.0	13.61	13.41	13.03	12.87
Kenosha (County)	440.43	440.38	629.64	38.6	38.8	45.2	11.41	11.35	11.01	10.92
La Crosse (County)	395.79	394.99	382.97	41.1	42.2	41.9	9.63	9.36	9.27	9.00
Madison (Dane County)	408.41	421.00	399.90	40.8	42.1	41.1	10.01	10.00	9.66	9.57
Milwaukee (Milwaukee-Ozaukee-Washington-Waukesha)	475.12	479.41	489.30	41.1	41.4	42.0	11.56	11.58	11.07	11.04
Racine (County)	436.41	447.43	434.16	39.0	40.2	40.2	11.19	11.13	10.77	10.67
Sheboygan (County)	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	N.A.
Wausau (Marathon County)	431.57	447.12	425.21	41.9	43.2	42.1	10.30	10.35	9.78	9.71

WANTED: MORE SKILLED WORKERS

...all of the options reduce or eliminate the need for unskilled labor.

By August L. Cibarich

As we enter the 1990's, it has become apparent that maintaining and improving Wisconsin's standard of living faces a new challenge. Wisconsin has successfully competed with other industrialized states and with the industrialized nations of the world. Our challenge now is to also compete with those nations surging toward industrial development.

While Wisconsin has long been noted for the product of its "skilled" labor force, it also has prospered because of the productivity of its "unskilled" labor force. The Wisconsin economy is very diverse. Some of our industries rely heavily on machinery and specialized equipment. More efficient production, and thus competitiveness, in such machinery intensive industries results from technological advances.

Other industries rely on unskilled labor. While little international competition in those industries existed, Wisconsin's labor intensive industries prospered.

In the decade of the eighties, formerly nonindustrial nations have caught up to us in their ability to produce products with an unskilled labor force. Shifts in the location of production have repeatedly reminded us of this. Our advantageous economic position resulting from World War II has finally been lost.

Wisconsin's ability to compete is now selective, not universal. Labor intensive products produced with unskilled labor in Wisconsin must now compete with very low wage "third world" producers. The competitive pressure is upon producers whose market is local, within state boundaries, as well as upon Wisconsin producers whose market is national or international.

A Wisconsin business firm has a limited number of options when confronted with competition from developing nations. Essentially these options are:

- automate the production process, reducing or eliminating the need for unskilled labor.
- stop the production of the product, eliminating the need for unskilled labor.
- distribute the foreign-made product, becoming a merchandizer rather than manufacturer, eliminating the need for unskilled labor.

Note that all of the options reduce or eliminate the need for unskilled labor. Unless barriers to the importation of the foreign products are enacted by the Congress and the national administration, an option not likely to occur, the need for unskilled labor is reduced.

An increase in the number of Wisconsin workers with technical job skills and a reduction in the number without such skills is needed if Wisconsin is to prosper in the 1990's.

Fortunately, Wisconsin manufacturers have begun modifying their businesses to meet this challenge from overseas. Processes have been automated, product lines have been changed, manufacturers have become distributors, and inservice training of employees has increased.

Unfortunately, the other side of the equation has been changing slowly.

Large number of graduates continue to leave our secondary schools with no plan to obtain the specialized technical skills needed under the new way of producing and distributing products.

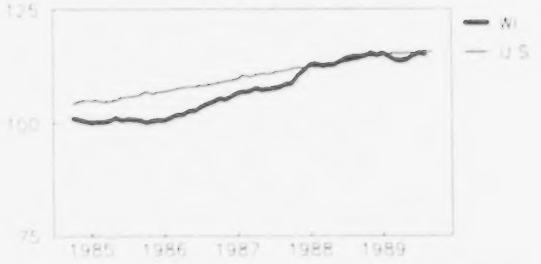
Fewer entrants into a labor market that rewards specific skills means that some way must be found to reduce the size of our unskilled labor pool. We must avoid an increase in the size of our dependent population while skilled technical and professional jobs go unfilled for lack of qualified candidates.

The answer is to activate our population's potential and to minimize self-imposed limitations resulting from inaction. The answer is a two-fold approach. We must encourage more students to seek technical and professional training beyond high school. And we must expand our apprenticeship program and the program offerings of our state's public and private colleges and of our technical schools. This along with more remedial basic education is the labor force challenge of the 1990's.

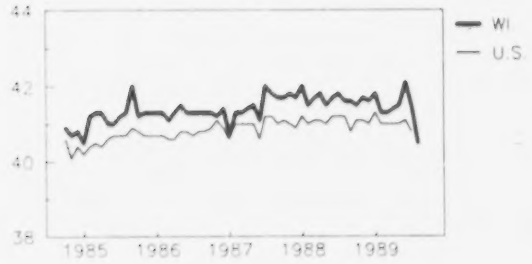
WISCONSIN, U.S. COMPARISONS

	NOVEMBER, 1989		MO. AGO		YR. AGO	
	WI.	U.S.	WI.	U.S.	WI.	U.S.
Total Employment (thous.)	2520.7	117,836	2525.7	117,585	2508.3	115,947
Total Unemployment (thous.)	110.6	6,729	112.5	6,561	96.9	6,563
Mfg. Employment (thous.)	555.7	19,516	554.1	19,543	558.2	19,557
Avg. Workweek, Mfg. (hours)	40.5	N.A.	41.5	40.8	41.6	41.2
Avg. Weekly Initial Claims	6929	343,000	7059	357,000	6775	301,000
Total Unemployment Rate	4.2%	5.3%	4.3%	5.3%	3.7%	5.4%

Total Employment
1982–1984 = 100

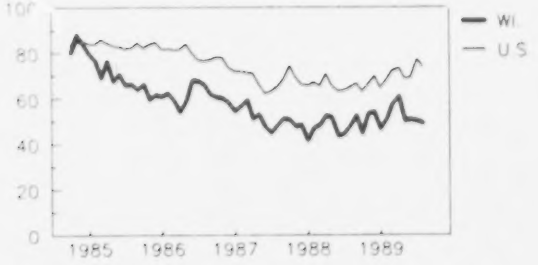


Avg. Workweek, Mfg.
Hours

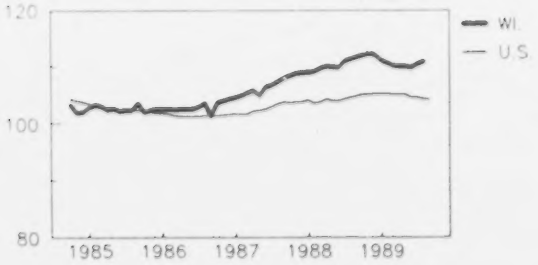


Total Unemployment
1982–1984 = 100

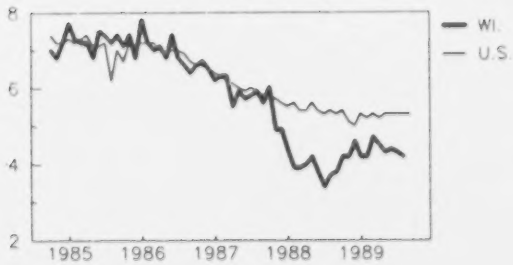
Avg. Weekly Initial Claims
1982–1984 = 100



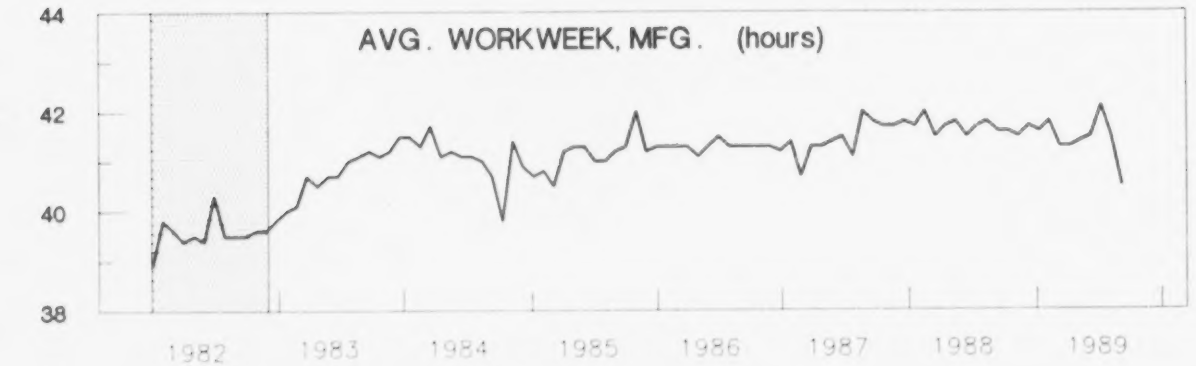
Manufacturing Empl.
1982–1984 = 100

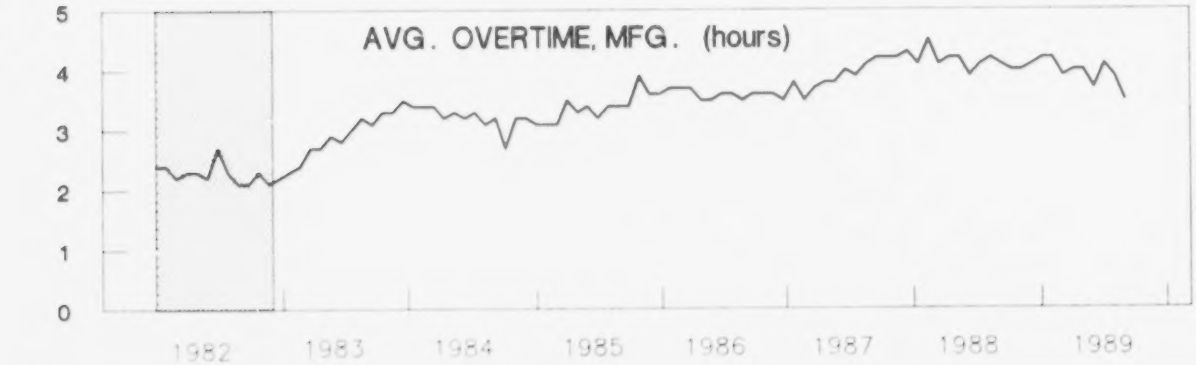


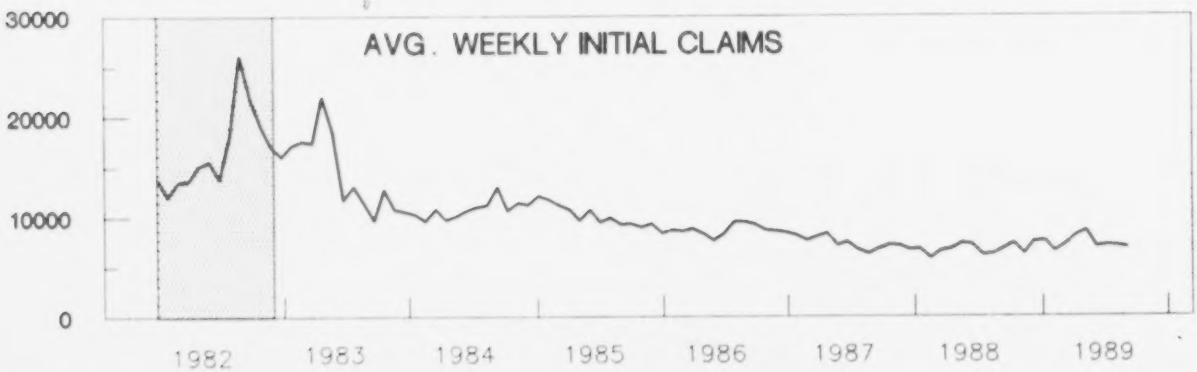
Total Unemployment Rate
Percent



D CYCLICAL INDICATORS







D CYCLICAL INDICATORS